



# english theater torino Newsletter October 2011

## Hello again ... we're back!

This month saw the first full meeting of **ett** members after our (long) summer break. As we're currently homeless (of which more below) we met in the convivial surroundings of the Caffè Accorsi Palace and were delighted to welcome no less than seven new members:



*President Connie Kelly Quercetti introduces the group to new members*



*Claudia Cusinello*



*Deborah Gutowitz*



*Donatella Badin*



*Emma Mathie*



*Flo Ulmann*



*Isabel Rodriguez*



*Suzanna Vatter*

It was a busy evening of catching up and meeting new faces. When the bustle of summer holiday stories and membership form filling had died down, existing members introduced themselves and Connie explained just how many different talents are required for a successful production – there really is something for everyone. We're just starting the search for our next play and looking forward to a series of read-throughs .... just as soon as we find somewhere to do them.



Administrative changes at Carlo Alberto mean that we no longer have our rehearsal/meeting space. We're following up lots of great leads and suggestions from members old and new but would still welcome any offers or ideas. We're looking for a space, not necessarily with a stage – though that would be great - but big enough to rehearse properly, for one or two weekday evening(s) a week. We can't afford much (if anything) but of course will contribute to the cost of heating, lighting etc. If you have an idea please contact us! [englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com](mailto:englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com)

*See the next page for news of upcoming events and **ett** members' activities*



## Important lunch date!

**ett's** domestic goddess **Sally Rava** will be hosting a fund raising lunch on **November 15th** at her fascinating home in Rivoli. Don't miss this chance to enjoy Sally's fabulous cooking and help refill our depleted coffers. Numbers are limited to 20 so book your place at the table now: [englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com](mailto:englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com)

## A new entertainment for children

**Sally's** many skills range far beyond the kitchen and she is currently finalising a new mini-pantomime for small schoolchildren, "The Three Little Pigs". Our production of "Little Red Riding Hood" was so successful and we had so much fun with it that we know this one will bring just as much enjoyment to cast, crew and audience. We already have requests from schools that hosted the previous production and as soon as we've sorted the casting we'll be ready to go. This is an ideal opportunity for new actors to try their wings – it's short, easy to learn (no one notices if you depart from the script) and we're sure of an appreciative audience. So, if you're free during school hours and would like to try for a part, just get in touch!



## ett off stage ... and on other stages

If you're a regular reader you'll know that **ett** members are a busy crowd, fitting lots of interests and activities into their lives. Here's a round-up of what some **ett**-ers have been up to recently:

### A bit of a fling

**Graziella Viglione**, seen here in exuberant mood at "The Odd Couple" after-show party, is a member of CLIVIS Scottish Country Dance Society. This spirited group meets weekly to enjoy the uplifting effect of cheerful music and healthy exercise. Graziella says "The meetings are an occasion to look forward to, not to be missed, or else my body wouldn't be the same – as lively as a cricket – on the following day". And there are regular weekend workshops with experienced teachers from the Royal Scottish Country Dances Society: "Enjoyable and fruitful as well as a great help to build up confidence". The new season's meetings have just started so if you would like to give it a go, check the website [www.clivis-torino.it](http://www.clivis-torino.it) or contact [clivis@hotmail.it](mailto:clivis@hotmail.it)



### Our very own modista milanese

**ett** members have long admired **Rhona Oliver's** glamorous and original wardrobe and accessories - and now she's developing her fashion talents at the Istituto di Moda Burgo, located in the International Fashion Centre of Milan, where she's studying Pattern Making Design - Women's Wear Haute Couture. Now she's over the initial shock of travelling to Milan four times a week, Rhona says "I really, really love the course ... the workroom is buzzing with young girls and boys of all different nationalities either at the sewing machines, or draping garments over mannequins etc - there's fabric of every type and colour all over the tables and floors. People seem to come and go and I am never at a table next to the same person from one day to the next - it's a really exciting environment." So we'll be looking forward to Rhona's first collection some time soon !!



*The CLIVIS 20th Anniversary ball in Acqua Terme*



*Rhona in the workroom with her teacher, Stefania.*

On the next page ... **ett** members working for women, and spreading their theatrical wings

## Working for women worldwide



Among **Laura Zanasi's** many voluntary activities is her work for Zonta, an international organisation dedicated to advancing the status of women all over the world. Zonta's services to women include funding women's health projects, granting scholarships and fellowships to women in the fields of business, public affairs etc. and in the aerospace field – this last dedicated to their hero and symbol, Amelia Earhart.

Members work tirelessly to raise funds with events, dinners etc. and Laura is very proud that Turin has been chosen for the Worldwide Convention in July 2012. She says "I believe that women are great ... but still in 2011 they have fewer opportunities than men, lower salaries, and in certain countries are just objects that are not even worth protecting from a health point of view. I realise the situation has improved from years ago but it's still not enough. So through Zonta we try to give our small contribution ... it may be just a small drop, but the ocean is made up of drops!"

If you would like to join Zonta or find out more about this important work go to [www.zontadistrict30.org](http://www.zontadistrict30.org)



## A directorial triumph

Who will ever forget **Gianfranco Calcagno** as the hilarious Jesus Costazuela in "The Odd Couple"? But he has many more strings to his theatrical bow. This month Gianfranco made his hugely successful directorial debut at the Teatro San Paolo, Rivoli with Boris Vian's "The Empire Builders", in which he also appeared (on the right in the photo). Gianfranco says "I have been really moved by the audience's reaction beyond my own expectations. I have loved this script (not so popular in Italy) for many years and I am glad to have had the opportunity to tell this wonderful and meaningful story to other people"



The equally unforgettable and multi-talented **Pasquale Iuliano** (a.k.a. Manolo Costazuela) also made an invaluable contribution to this production as Sound and Light wizard. (And we're rather proud to say that yet another link to "The Odd Couple" was ... *the same door!*)

The good news is that there will be another performance on Saturday, December 10th at the Teatro Borgonuovo, Rivoli as part of the "Uno, due, tre sipario" festival. Put it in your diary and contact [englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com](mailto:englishtheatertorino@yahoo.com) – we'll pass on requests for tickets.

## Roll camera for Colleen

**Colleen Sharkey's** latest role has been on quite a different kind of set from the ones she's used to. She's fresh from working on short film, "Aion", destined for the One+One and London Underground Film Festival Filmmakers Challenge "Revolutions in Progress". Her son, David Sharkey, a graduate in Acting for Film, Theatre and Media and well-known to many **ett** members, is co-producer and co-writer of the film in which he also appears (like **ett**, members of this this group wear many hats!)

Set in a dystopian future where religion is outlawed, the film is shot in a mixture of drama and documentary and Colleen found it a fascinating experience: "It was great fun and so interesting to work in a completely different way: instead of rehearsing over months with the scenes more or less in order, your scenes are out of order, you learn the four or five lines at a time, you're told the story and you go in and do it. The acting technique's quite different too – being used to the stage, sometimes my expressions were 'too big' for the camera."

You can see Colleen in her first cinematic role on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7KiuaI7YdY&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7KiuaI7YdY&feature=youtu.be)



Colleen as the Mother in "Aion"